

APPROVED 08-08-06
KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2006
EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Nancy Dow-Witherbee, Lis Eddy, Melody Cecilia James, Helen Nilon, Eleanor Owen, Allan Panitch, Eugene Wan

Members Absent: James Nobles (excused), Ron Sterling (on leave of absence), Gwendolyn Williams (excused)

Guest Present: Joan Clement (KCASAAB Liaison); Andrew Ward (Board applicant)

Staff Present: Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Eleanor Owen convened the meeting at 4:36p.m. She informed the Board that she will be leaving the meeting a little early to enable her to attend the Board meeting of NAMI-Greater Seattle (NGS). Because of the July 4th holiday, NGS Board has rescheduled its meeting from last week to 6 o'clock tonight. If the Board does not finish all business by 5:45pm, Eleanor asked Vice Chair Helen Nilon to conclude the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Dow-Witherbee made a motion, which was seconded by Helen Nilon to approve the June 13, 2006 minutes as submitted. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Eleanor Owen stated that as Board Chair her report will focus more on mental health activities statewide that relate to King County Regional Service Network (RSN).

A. Mental Health Statewide Activities

Mental Health Task Force Sub-Committee of the Transformation Grant has submitted its 27 recommendations as outcomes from the various committees.

The Blue Ribbon Committee, which was set up by the Legislature this year, is tasked at looking at the entire health care system in Washington and charged in making recommendations to the Legislature for the upcoming session.

The first training session under Transformation Grant will be held on July 13th. Detailed information about this training will be provided to Board members via email.

B. Request for Leave of Absence

Ron Sterling requested for a three-month leave of absence from July to September 2006. This request has been approved.

C. Joint Board Meeting

This year's joint Board meeting between the King County Mental Health Advisory Board (KCMHAB) and the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board (KCASAAB) will be held in October. Since KCASAAB is host for this year, the joint Board meeting will be held on their regular Board meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2006 from 12 noon to 1:30pm at Safeco Jackson Street Center, Multi-Purpose Conference Room, 306 23rd Avenue S, Seattle. This meeting will take the place of our regular Board meeting in October.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee – *Jim Nobles*

Not present to report.

Nominations Update – *Helen Nilon*

The Nominations Committee interviewed Andrew Ward for Board membership and Melody Cecilia James for Board re-appointment prior to the meeting today. At this point, everything is on hold until additional information needed is received.

Quality Council – *Helen Nilon*

There was no quorum from last QC meeting. The first of the community forums on Recovery Plan will be held in Evergreen Hospital at Room 10100 in Kirkland on Tuesday, July 18th. For South King County (SKC), it will be on Tuesday, September 19th at NAMI SKC facility. Helen Nilon is working with Perry Wein in forum information and participation.

Helen Nilon stated that there is a possibility of merging the Quality Council and the Recovery Initiatives Committee due to the lack of interest and participation from the Board members.

Recovery Initiatives Committee – *Eleanor Owen*

Eleanor Owen appointed Eugene Wan to chair the Recovery Initiatives Committee effective immediately. She reported that she has resigned as Chair of RIC to focus on the work of the King County Mental Health Advisory Board as Chair.

The County will create a webpage devoted to the recovery process.

V. STAFF REPORT

A. Board Committee Activities and Role Analysis

In response to a statement made earlier by Helen Nilon regarding the possibility of merging the Quality Council and the Recovery Initiatives Committee, Jean Robertson passed out copies of Mental Health Advisory Board Committee and Recovery Initiatives Committee Activities and an analysis of the role of Mental Health Advisory Board Committee and the Recovery Implementation Work Group. Jean asked the Board members to review the documents and determine if there is an overlap on the role of the committee to avoid duplication of work. It is important for committees to have a clear understanding of their activities and their goals.

The Board decided to review the handouts and take action at next month's Board meeting. Helen Nilon asked that RCW or WAC related to goal items be included in the mailings.

B. Legislative Priorities

The State Mental Health Division has identified the following legislative priorities:

1. Increase reimbursement rate for Western State Hospital's psychiatric care and hospitalization.
2. Review how Medicaid allocations are set. The current allocation formula puts an unfair burden on King County RSN for it provided more services than the Medicaid formula allows. It is a fairness issue.
3. Amending State laws (RCWs 71.05 and 10.77) to better divert people with mental illness from going to jail and, instead enable to receive timely and appropriate treatment in local communities.

A lively, thought provoking discussion followed on Priority #3. Liz Eddy would support an amendment on domestic violence law to exempt people with dementia to be arrested and incarcerated. She re-enforced the need for establishing a diversion or triage facility in King County. The concept was strongly endorsed by the Board.

Liz Eddy made motion, which was seconded by Nancy Dow-Witherbee to support the concept of establishing a diversion facility in King County. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Sales Tax Briefing

On June 19th, the Law, Justice and Human Services Committee gave a briefing on the sales tax before the King County Council. An ordinance is being developed for Council consideration. If the ordinance is adopted, the various sub-groups will reconvene to work on the recommendations. The Plan will be submitted to the Council by July 2007.

On July 20th, the Law, Justice and Human Services Committee will do a status report on Recovery Plan at the King County Council Meeting.

VI. LIAISON REPORTS

Helen Nilon: Seattle Mental Health, Evergreen Healthcare, Partnership Meeting

Seattle Mental Health (SMH) just had their RSN audit, which was well received. There has been an increase of 1% in their clients and 8% on their services. The agency participated in the selected housing demonstration project. The project provides wraparound services for mentally ill persons who are also homeless. They also continue to receive funding for mentally ill offender program. SMH held its 40th Mental Health Matters event on June 14th, which was attended by approximately 420 people and collected about \$75,000. The agency is currently working on name change.

No report on **Evergreen Healthcare (EHC)** at this time. Helen will invite EHC to do a presentation at the regular Board meeting either in September or November 2006.

Partnership Group - Jean Robertson gave a heads up on significant changes in contract language, which include new monitoring requirements for the EPSDT plan and background checks for employees. Amnon Shoenfeld encouraged everyone to nominate individuals/programs for the 2006 Exemplary Awards. This annual event will take place on Thursday, October 5, 2006 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Cathedral Bloedel Hall. Amnon succeeded in negotiating the return of the \$600,000 from the liquidated damage. In return, the State asked that a portion from the money returned will be used to intervene and get clients out of the forensic unit before the 90-day civil commitment takes place. The big news is on recent decisions about access to atypical medications. It has been decided that all atypical antipsychotics will be considered "preferred" on the state's Preferred Drug List, except for brand name medications for which there is a generic form available. Sharon Farmer handed out matrix with ages and dosages. There was an excellent presentation on pandemic flu. The presenter emphasized that it is not

a matter of “if” but “when.” Jean stated that it is important to educate everyone about this epidemic.

Eugene Wan: Community Psychiatric Clinic

Eugene visited CPC’s clubhouse which is scheduled for grand opening this month. The clubhouse is shifting the model of the facility of being more run by the participants. The facility will open an office where consumers can learn office skills and rehearse how it is to work in an office. Staffing is a problem; they are looking for staff to run the office.

Allan Panitch: Seattle Children’s Home

Allan has not received any response from the agency.

Melody Cecilia James: Children’s Hospital and Medical Center

She has not connected with the contact person from the hospital. Melody also asked if Jean Robertson could provide written guidelines on what to do in the performance of assignment as Board Liaison.

Nancy Dow-Witherbee: Harborview Mental Health Services

The agency was just done with State audit. They are currently in the process of re-organization on how staff time is tracked internally to determine its productivity level – time used for one-on-one face to face, travel time, vacation. Their employment team outcome has positive results.

Lis Eddy: Seattle Mental Health Court

Lis will be the liaison for Seattle Mental Health Court effective immediately.

Jean Robertson will bring up the Board liaison assignment issue to Partnership Group so that Agency Executive Directors/CEOs would be more open and welcoming to Board Liaison to visit them in their facility.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Eleanor Owen
Board Chair